

Amendments to the Claims

1-20.(canceled)

21.(new) A method, comprising:

storing an authorized bio signature in a memory of a printer;
the printer comparing an entered bio signature for a user to the authorized bio signature; and
the printer allowing the user access to the configuration controls of the printer only if the entered bio signature matches the authorized bio signature.

22.(new) The method of Claim 21, further comprising prompting a user to enter a bio signature of the user at the printer when the user attempts to access configuration controls of the printer.

23.(new) The method of Claim 21, wherein the entered bio signature comprises a first entered bio signature and the method further comprising:

the printer receiving a secured print job and a bio signature associated with the print job;

the printer comparing a second entered bio signature to the bio signature associated with the print job; and

printing the print job only if the second entered bio signature matches the bio signature associated with the print job.

24.(new) The method of Claim 23, wherein the first entered bio signature and the second entered bio signature are the same entered bio signature.

25.(new) The method of Claim 23, wherein the printer receiving a secured print job and a bio signature associated with the print job comprises the printer receiving a secured print job having a bio signature embedded therein.

26.(new) The method of Claim 23, further comprising tracking usage of the printer according to an entered bio signature.

27.(new) A printing system, comprising:
a printer;
a biometric identification device operatively connected to the printer for entering bio signatures directly into the printer; and
the printer configured to store an authorized bio signature in a memory of the printer, compare a bio signature of a user entered through the biometric identification device to the authorized bio signature, and allow the user access to the configuration controls of the printer only if the entered bio signature matches the authorized bio signature.

28.(new) The system of Claim 28, wherein the printer is further configured to prompt a user to enter a bio signature of the user at the printer when the user attempts to access configuration controls of the printer.

29.(new) The system of Claim 28, wherein the entered bio signature comprises a first entered bio signature and the printer further configured to:
receive a secured print job and a bio signature associated with the print job;
compare a second bio signature of a user entered through the biometric identification device to the bio signature associated with the print job; and
print the print job only if the second entered bio signature matches the bio signature associated with the print job.

30.(new) The system of Claim 29, wherein the first entered bio signature and the second entered bio signature are the same entered bio signature.

31.(new) The system of Claim 29, wherein the printer is further configured to track usage of the printer according to an entered bio signature.

32.(new) The system of Claim 29, further comprising a host computer for generating the secured print job and associating the bio signature with the secured print job.

33.(new) The system of Claim 32, further comprising a biometric identification device operatively connected to the host computer for generating the bio signature associated with the secured print job.

34.(new) The system of Claim 27, wherein the printer comprises a fax machine.

35.(new) The system of Claim 27, wherein the bio signature comprises an electronic representation of a user's fingerprint.